

**Implementing  
Solutions / Reducing  
Environmental Risks**

# **Community CARE Initiative**

## **New Haven, Connecticut**



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**NEW HAVEN**  
IT ALL HAPPENS HERE

**June 27, 2006**  
**EPA NCIC Conference**





# New Haven Community CARE Initiative

## Discussion

Community Setting

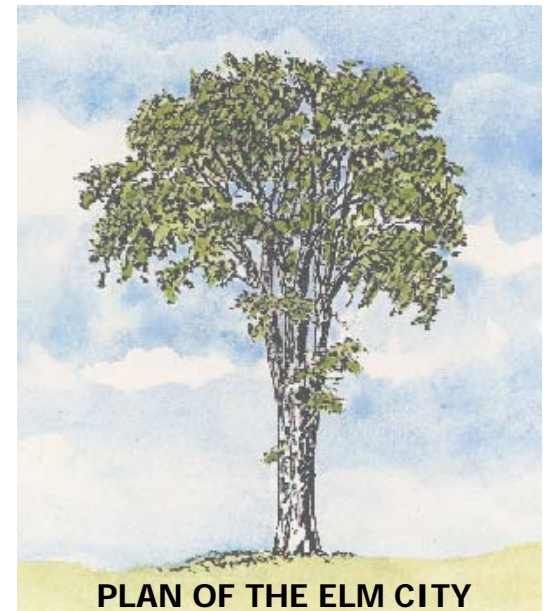
Environmental Setting

Response & Partnerships

Level II Program Approach

Implementation & Community  
Involvement Strategies

Lessons Going Forward







# Community Setting



**New Haven is the regional center  
of southern Connecticut.**





# Community Setting

**The “Elm City” balances the often-competing interests of a transportation hub, economic center and diverse / historic residential neighborhoods.**

Population: 124,000  
Under 18: 25%  
% Minority: 64%

Employment Base: 75,000  
Median Income: \$36,000  
Poverty Rate: 21%

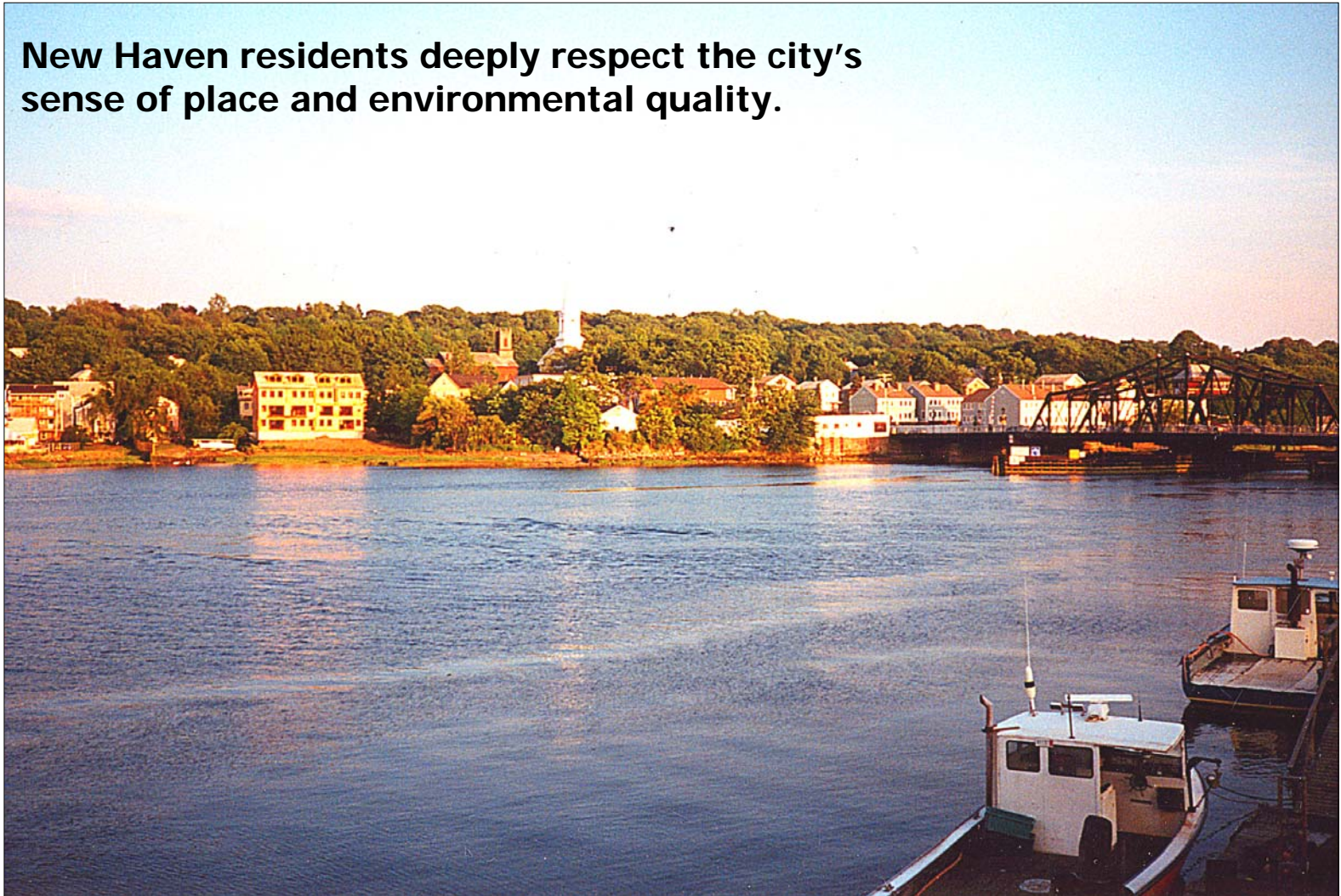






# Environmental Setting

**New Haven residents deeply respect the city's sense of place and environmental quality.**





# Environmental Setting

**Residential quality of life and general public health are adversely affected by poor air and water quality.**

**Some of the sources -**

- Non-compliance for PM 2.5 and Ozone.
- 1,000 tons of air toxics (approx. 20% from diesel emissions)
- Point- and non-point source pollution in each tributary to the Harbor.







# Environmental Setting

## Some of the impacts -

- 15-20% of school children with asthma.
- Connecticut has the 5th highest rate of invasive cancer in the nation.
- No fishable or swimmable river in the city.

**Public health indicators  
raise significant  
Environmental Justice  
Concerns when compared to  
the state as a whole.**





# Response & Partnership

The City is fortunate to partner with Connecticut DEP and EPA Region 1, in developing an effective response to poor environmental conditions.

- Clean School Bus Initiative
- Energy Management
- ULSD Campaign
- Renewables (20% by 2010)
- English Station Re-start
- Intermodal Transportation







# Level II Program Approach

## Basic Premise:

Better integrate environmental and traditional land use planning through education, demonstrable projects and policy / regulatory change which, taken as a whole, will be systematic and lasting beyond the CARE program time frame.

## Partners:

- Yale University & Urban Resources Initiative
- Common Ground High School
- CT Department of Environmental Protection
- CONNSTEP / Manufacturing Resource Center
- New Haven Land Trust
- New Haven Environmental Justice Network





- **Planning Programs & Outreach**

2002 - New comprehensive plan provided the visionary foundation for the program.

2006 - A new coastal program provides the necessary strategic approach.







## • Common Ground High School Field Work

1997 - Magnet School moves to a city park.

2006 - Students are in the field, taking air quality samples and providing peer-to-peer education.





- **New Port Authority**

2003 - Port Authority established.

2006 - CARE Partner Environment Northeast and Yale prepare a diesel emissions approach. Implementation RFQ to be released this year.







# Demonstrable Projects

- **River Street MDP**

2002 - Plan approved.

2006 - EPA Brownfields funding used at Phase III stage. New waterfront park/coastal buffer plan initiated.









# Demonstrable Projects

- **VMT Reduction Efforts**

2002 - Greenways & Trails Plan prepared. First (first!) bike lane constructed.

2006 - Third phase of the Farmington Canal Greenway under construction.  
TDM part of approval for new Yale Cancer Center.

CARE RFQ to prepare integrated VMT program: Park/Bus Pass; Car Share, etc.





# Demonstrable Projects

- **On-Site Pollution Prevention**

2005 - EPA-sponsored workshops for dry cleaners, gas stations and graphic arts facilities.

2006 - EPA-sponsored EMS workshops. CARE RFQ for on-site EMS training at major manufacturers.







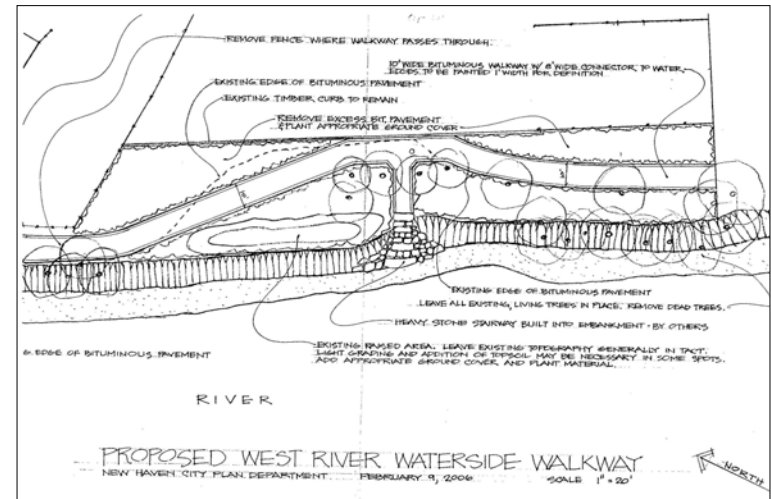
# Policy / Regulatory Standard

- **New Coastal Program**

1980 - New Haven partners with the State on Coastal Zone Management

1980 - 2005 - No significant amendments to the local Coastal Program, effectiveness limited.

2006 - New program adopted. Emphasis on “coastal benefits” and environmental stewardship. Focus of the on-site CARE Coordinator.





- **Waste Processing & Junkyard Regulations**

2004 - Four applications for major new facilities in the city.  
Moratorium enacted.

2005 - New regulations passed with no legal challenge.

2006 - Many new facilities prohibited.  
Existing facilities require a special permit. CARE RFQ for technical assistance to be issued later this year.







**Urban planning is a logical point-of-leverage and a pathway to environmental performance.**

**The planning process is community-driven from visioning to external and project-specific exercises.**

**For New Haven's approach to be sustainable, it must be systematic -**

- Land use
- Transportation
- Coastal resource planning
- Economic development
- Neighborhood investments

